

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 CPR-02 DRC-01 /126 W

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P R 241825Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7381

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 01111

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PINS, UK, BB, GJ

SUBJECT: GRENADA INDEPENDENCE

REF: STATE 014097 (NOTAL)

1. EMBOFF TOOK ADVANTAGE OF PREVIOUSLY ARRANGED LUNCHEON JANUARY 24 TO RAISE POINTS MADE IN REFTEL WITH MILES PRESTON, HEAD OF FCO'S CARIBBEAN DEPARTMENT. PRESTON WAS AWARE OF OUR INTEREST AND CONCERN ABOUT PARTICIPATION IN INDEPENDENCE CEREMONIES. HE SAID THAT AS OF THE MOMENT HMG IS NOT CONSIDERING POSSIBILITY OF POSTPONEMENT. HOWEVER, THERE IS ALMOST CERTAIN TO BE A SUBSTANTIAL MODIFICATION OF THE ORIGINAL PLANS FOR CEREMONIES. THEY WILL BE LESS ELABORATE AND IN ALL PROBABILITY OFFICIAL UK REPRESENTATION WILL BE AT A LOWER LEVEL. WHEN ASKED IF THIS MEANT THAT PRINCE RICHARD OF GLOUCESTER WOULD NOT ATTEND, PRESTON DEMURRED SAYING THAT EXACT COMPOSITION OF UK REPRESENTATION WAS STILL UNDER ACTIVE DISCUSSION AT HIGH LEVELS OF HMG
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AND THAT NO ONE WAS ABLE TO PREDICT WHAT THE OUTCOME

WOULD BE. AT A LATER POINT IN CONVERSATION, HE SAID THAT AT A MINIMUM THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE WIAS AND HIS DEPUTY AS WELL AS THE HIGH COMMISSIONER IN TRINIDAD WHO WILL BE ACCREDITED TO GRENADA WILL ATTEND THE INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATIONS. PRESTON EXPECTS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE DELEGATION HIMSELF UNLESS MAJOR PROBLEMS IN THE AREA KEEP HIM TIED TO HIS DESK.

2. HMG, ACCORDING TO PRESTON, IS STILL BETTING ON GARY'S HOLDING ON THROUGH FEBRUARY 4. AFTER INDEPENDENCE DAY HAS PASSED, GARY EXPECTS OPPOSITION WILL WITHER BUT PRESTON WAS UNWILLING TO COMMIT HIMSELF ON ANY ESTIMATE OF THE SHAPE OF THE POLITICAL SCENE IN GRENADA POST-INDEPENDENCE. IN ATTEMPTING TO PUT AS GOOD A FACE AS POSSIBLE ON THE CURRENT SITUATION, PRESTON MADE MUCH OF THE POINT THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO MAJOR DISTURBANCES IN THE PAST 24 HOURS. PRESTON PROMISED TO KEEP US ABREAST OF THE SITUATION AS DECISIONS ARE TAKEN WITH RESPECT TO BRITISH PARTICIPATION IN INDEPENDENCE CEREMONIES. BOTH HE AND EMBOFF AGREED THAT IT WOULD ALSO BE WISE TO KEEP BRITISH EMBASSY WASHINGTON COMPLETELY IN THE PICTURE. HE THOUGHT HIGH COMMISSIONER ROBERTS WAS KEEPING AMBASSADOR DONOVAN IN BRIDGETOWN WELL INFORMED AND ASKED THAT WE LET HIM KNOW IF THERE WERE ANY BREAKDOWNS IN THE LIAISON BETWEEN OUR RESPECTIVE REPRESENTATIVES EITHER IN THE WEST INDIES OR IN WASHINGTON.

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